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ocket No.
448563/0159
LR/JFD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Kazaumichi Shimada, et al.** Group Art Unit: **2863**

Application No.: **09/004,271**

Examiner: **Michael P. Nghiem**

Filed: **January 7, 1998**

For: **INK-JET PRINTING APPARATUS**

Date: April 7, 2004

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08A).

The two listed references were called to Applicants' attention in a Japanese Office Action, in which six references were cited, in a counterpart application to the instant case. A copy of the Japanese office action, dated January 7, 2004, is enclosed, as well as copies of cited references JP-A-6-015835 and JP-UM-A-57-057566. Also included are an English language translation of the Japanese office action, an English language translation of JP-A-6-015835 and an English language abstract of JP-UM-A-057566, and the Examiner is respectfully directed thereto for a concise explanation of the relevance of the cited art.

It should be noted that of the other references cited on the Japanese office action, one reference, EP 645244, is already of record in this application, and JP-A-7-117239 is a

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Japanese counterpart thereof. In addition, JP-A-3-218851 is a counterpart application of EP 388978 A2, which has previously been submitted in the present application.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after receipt of a notice of allowance, but prior to payment of the issue fee. Accordingly, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d), applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge the required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) to deposit account no. 19-4709, and applicants hereby make the following statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):

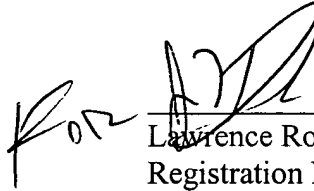
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)

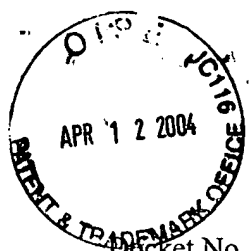
It is hereby stated that each item of information listed on the annexed form PTO/SB/08A was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this information disclosure statement.

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Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Group Art Unit: **2863**

Application No.: **09/004,271**

Examiner: **Michael P. Nghiem**

Filed: **January 7, 1998**

For: **INK-JET RECORDING APPARATUS**

Date: **April 7, 2004**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)**

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (3 pgs.) and the English Translation of the office action mailed January 7, 2004; Form PTO/SB/08A (1 pg.) and two cited references including English translations; and return postcard

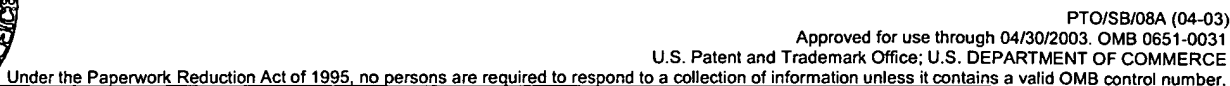
is being deposited on **April 7, 2004** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope bearing sufficient postage thereon and addressed to:

**Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.**

James F. Dobrow

(Typed Or Printed Name Of Person Mailing Correspondence)

(Signature Of Person Mailing Correspondence)

**Complete if Known**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	09/004,271
Filing Date	January 7, 1998
First Named Inventor	Kazumichi Shimada, et al.
Art Unit	2863
Examiner Name	Michael P. Nghiem
Attorney Docket Number	448563/0159

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ *Number ⁴ *Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		JP-A-6-015835	01-25-1994			
		JP-UM-A-57-057566	09-19-1955			

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3).⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible.⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22314-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.